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By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

A record Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$30,047,997, for 2001 will be proposed to messengers when the 2000 Mississippi Baptist Convention convenes October 31-November 1 at First Church, Jackson.

The proposed budget represents a \$1,964,648 (7%) increase over the 2000 Mississippi CP budget of \$28,083,349, currently in effect through the end of the year.

The 100-member Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson on August 29, approved sending the proposed budget — the first ever to top \$30,000,000 — to messengers after the board's budget committee spent the better part of the year 2000 assembling the figures.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- An increase of \$812,651, in the SBC category, to bring the total to \$10,516,799 — the first time that amount has surpassed \$10.5 million.

- The first percentage increase to the SBC since 1991 (from 34.55% to 35%).

In 1995, messengers voted that a portion of the funds designated for SBC causes be administered here in Mississippi. The amount administered in Mississippi is the portion entitled, "Directly Funded Missions." In the current budget year, 34.55% is being forwarded to the SBC and 2.45% is being administered within the state for partnership missions and home missions work in Mississippi.

- The SBC will also receive the largest dollar increase of any item in the budget, and 41% of the total increase over last year's Mississippi CP budget will go to the SBC.

- For the first time, the MBCB Partnership Missions department will be directly funded by the Mississippi portion of the CP budget.

Partnership Missions has previously been funded under the SBC causes portion of the budget.

- The challenge portion — any funds over the amount needed to fully fund the budget — will be divided 50% to Christian education in Mississippi; 30% to international missions; 10% to North American missions; and 10% to Mississippi missions.

In other business, the MBCB executive committee approved the hiring of two new employees and the reassignment of another employee.

Tony Martin, formerly minister of education at First Church, McComb, will join the staff of The Baptist Record as associate editor, beginning September 11.

Martin is a graduate of Troy State University in Alabama, where he majored in journalism, and Southwestern Seminary, where he earned the master of religious education degree.

He has written curriculum

material for Reach Out Ministries in Atlanta, which is headed by Barry St. Clair; anti-gambling study guides and other publications for various MBCB departments; and weekly Sunday School lessons for The Baptist Record.

Clay Moss, a former volunteer missions coordinator in Romania for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB), will become Mississippi Baptists' coordinator for "World A" partnership missions opportunities.

World A, also called the Final Frontier, contains the most unreached people.

During a two-year trial period, Moss will work through World A missionaries with Mississippi ties to enlist volunteer teams to travel to the Final Frontier. He will also train volunteers in World A missions.

According to documentation provided to the executive committee, IMB is aware of the World A project and is supportive of Moss as innovator of this new ministry.

Moss is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and is working toward a masters degree in missiology from New Orleans Seminary.

Larry Salter, formerly a consultant in the MBCB Sunday School department, has been reassigned with new duties relating to business negotiations on behalf of convention board departments and programs.

The executive committee also welcomed to the board:

- Randall Ashley, pastor of Holcomb Church, Holcomb, as the representative of North Central Association in Grenada. He replaces Everette Martin, who moved.

- Greg Herndon, pastor of First Church, Troy, as the representative of Pontotoc Association in Pontotoc. He replaces Philip Doyle Caples, who moved.

Proposed 2001 Cooperative Program Budget

	2000 Budget	2001 Budget	Percent of Total	Dollar Incr/Decr	Percent Incr/Decr
Southern Baptist Convention					
Southern Baptist Convention Budget Formula:					
SBC Operating	322,176	349,158	1.16%	26,980	8.37%
International Mission Board	4,852,074	5,258,400	17.50%	406,326	8.37%
North American Mission Board	2,211,575	2,396,778	7.98%	185,203	8.37%
Annuity Board	73,752	79,928	0.27%	6,176	8.37%
SBC Seminaries	2,099,978	2,275,835	7.57%	175,857	8.37%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	144,591	156,700	0.52%	12,109	8.37%
Total	9,704,148	10,516,799	35.00%	812,651	8.37%
Shared Responsibilities -MBC Matching Portion					
Church Annuity	810,000	876,000	2.92%	66,000	8.15%
Total	810,000	876,000	2.92%	66,000	8.15%
Mississippi Institutions and Agencies					
Baptist Children's Village	505,740	505,740	1.68%	0	0.00%
Board of Ministerial Education	357,114	376,350	1.25%	19,236	5.39%
Christian Action Commission	283,778	305,298	1.02%	21,520	7.58%
Christian Education	4,868,400	5,111,820	17.01%	243,420	5.00%
Christian Education Capital Needs	650,000	650,000	2.16%	0	0.00%
Historical Commission	54,330	57,130	0.19%	2,800	5.15%
Mississippi Baptist Foundation	377,013	403,404	1.34%	26,391	7.00%
Total	7,096,375	7,409,742	24.66%	313,367	4.42%
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board					
Baptist Record	537,215	570,195	1.90%	32,980	6.14%
Broadcast Services	307,845	309,558	1.03%	1,713	0.56%
Business Div/Act & Pers Services	452,281	491,587	1.64%	39,306	8.69%
Church Admin/Church Bldg Services	252,962	274,076	0.91%	21,114	8.35%
Church Growth Teams	251,030	168,025	0.56%	(83,005)	(33.07%)
Church Ministries	311,801	305,467	1.02%	(6,334)	(2.03%)
Church Music	391,096	428,062	1.43%	36,966	9.45%
Church/Minister Relations	302,944	330,409	1.10%	27,465	9.07%
Collegiate Ministry	1,388,849	1,507,160	5.02%	118,311	8.52%
Computer Information Services	285,968	308,615	1.03%	22,647	7.92%
Convention & Convention Committees	99,200	102,250	0.34%	3,050	3.07%
Discipleship & Family Ministry	563,003	647,269	2.15%	84,266	14.97%
Evangelism Promotion	381,073	388,298	1.29%	7,225	1.90%
Exec. Director's Office	366,549	410,840	1.37%	44,291	12.08%
Gulfshore Operations	382,972	406,559	1.35%	23,587	6.16%
Men's Ministry	421,558	452,749	1.51%	31,191	7.40%
Missions Extension	527,840	565,826	1.88%	37,986	7.20%
Office of Communication	211,337	210,460	0.70%	(877)	(0.41%)
Partnership Missions	421,251	450,000	1.50%	28,749	6.82%
Stewardship	216,056	258,849	0.86%	42,793	19.81%
Strategic Initiatives	563,045	694,101	2.31%	131,056	23.28%
Sunday School	615,693	611,076	2.03%	(4,617)	(0.75%)
Woman's Missionary Union	636,658	692,925	2.31%	56,267	8.84%
Youth Night/Youth Weeks	59,600	61,100	0.20%	1,500	2.52%
Capital Needs	525,000	600,000	2.00%	75,000	14.29%
Total	10,472,826	11,345,456	37.42%	772,630	7.38%
Total Cooperative Program Budget					
	28,083,349	30,047,997	100.00%	1,964,648	7.00%
Challenge Portion Percentages:					
Christian Education	50%	50%			
International Missions	30%	30%			
North American Missions	10%	10%			
Mississippi Missions	10%	10%			

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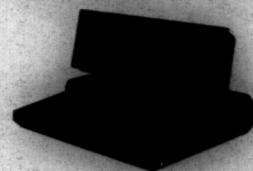
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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All across Mississippi and the country, the populist movement for offering an unsanctioned, non-official prayer before high school football games has found quite a following.

This disparate movement is known by a variety of names, and sprang up after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled several weeks ago that the long-standing tradition of pregame prayer was illegal. The goal of the various groups is the same, however — at some point before the opening kickoff of each game, anyone in the stands and on the field who wishes to voluntarily do so is invited to join in a recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Thus far the recitations have been low-key and without incident. No one has been threatened if they don't participate, and many fans in the stands are still doing what they always did during the bygone days of official pregame prayers: moving around, talking, going to the concession stand, and preparing to yell obscenities at the opposing side the instant the prayer ends.

Nonetheless, momentum for the idea is building. The New York Times noted last week that a smattering of students in the stands for a game in Hattiesburg quietly held hands and began praying. Before The Lord's Prayer was complete, most of the 4,500 people in the stands had joined in, the newspaper reported.

People praying in the stands before a high school football game in Asheville, N.C., drew front page coverage in USA Today, a nationally-published newspaper.

A radio station in Forest City, N.C., offered a prayer immediately prior to the station's live broadcast of a local football game, and encouraged fans in the stands to turn up their radios during the prayer.

According to press reports, a group in Pontotoc set up their own public address system on private property adjacent to the football stadium and aimed a prayer toward the stadium before the game began.

In Kirbyville, Texas, pastors from a cross-

section of the city's denominations have formed prayer groups that pray at various places around the stadium before the game begins.

Reaction has been predictable. In the North Carolina city where a "We Still Pray" rally drew an estimated 37,000 people to the high school football stadium, a local pagan group has demanded equal use of the stadium for a "We Still Do Magic" rally.

Mississippi American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) director David Ingebretsen was quoted in The Wall Street Journal as stating, "It seems to me that a planned, spontaneous prayer cannot be spontaneous and it violates the court's ruling. If this planned, spontaneous prayer happens, it forces everyone there to hear that prayer or participate in it."

The New York Times editorialized that while a student-initiated prayer in the stands may pass legal muster, it could still be construed as socially coercive and "...no less threatening to religious freedom than organized school prayer."

Must we begin checking prayers and sermons with an attorney before we pray and preach to be sure we aren't offending anyone?

Even nationally-syndicated newspaper columnist Cal Thomas, an evangelical Christian, slammed the pregame prayer movement as "triumphalism" and wrote, "Apparently, some people have such an inferiority complex about their faith that they need to see it trumpeted before the world."

Throughout history, revolutionaries who preferred the path of passive civil disobedience have often endured the harshest criticism that could be hurled at them by the well-entrenched political, social, and religious establishment.

Some of them paid with their lives for

"MISS JONES, CALL MY LAWYER.
ASK IF HE HAS CHECKED MY
SERMON TO SEE IF I'M ON
SAFE GROUND LEGALLY."



their revolutionary ideas. Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., come readily to mind.

The greatest revolutionary of all time, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, was roundly condemned and eventually slaughtered by the establishment of his day.

Such is the fate of people who set out to change the world. While the Christians who are promoting pregame prayers across America may never be called upon to pay the ultimate price as did our Savior, they can expect to be ridiculed, condemned, ostracized, and possibly imprisoned.

No one who knows them believes such sanctions will deter the pregame prayer folks, however. Just call them the New Revolutionaries.

GUEST OPINION: *What's the problem with evolution?*

By Donald L. Williams, member
University Church, Hattiesburg

What's the problem with evolution? As a Christian and a scientist, I have struggled for many years to find points of conflict between the Bible and the theory of evolution that seem to trouble so many people. I simply cannot find these points of conflict.

The Bible tells us that God created the heavens and the earth and all that dwell therein. It also tells us that God's concept of time is very different from the human concept of time (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8).

That is all the Bible tells us as actual fact. The Bible does not tell us that God created the plants and animals in their modern form, how he created those plants and animals, or how long in human terms it took him to do so.

Let's look at the issues a little more closely. God initiated the process by creating light and matter, apparently through the process that we describe in the "Big Bang" theory of the formation of the universe. After about 10 billion years — a mere day to God — he created the earth and other planets from the clouds of matter swirling around the star we call the sun.

The geological record of successive rock layers, and the dat-

ing using potassium-argon and uranium-thorium methods, leave no doubt of the antiquity of these rock layers.

These understandings all rest on the scientific research of Nicolas Copernicus, a man of God. Where is the conflict?

God created the plants and animals, apparently through the process of evolution. Evolution simply recognizes that the individuals produced by some combinations of genetic material are better able to gather food, resist disease, reproduce, etc., and that these individuals will survive the tribulations of life on earth and prosper at the expense of less well-adapted life forms.

Our understanding of evolution depends on the genetic research of Gregor Mendel, a man of God. Again, where is the conflict?

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that God created each plant and animal in its modern form, nor does the Bible mention all life forms that have not survived to modern times (such as dinosaurs).

The fossil record is incomplete at this stage, but year by year it becomes more complete and the intermediate forms that led from one animal to another and one plant to another become increasingly available to us.

If fact, we know that God did not create all creatures in their modern form because many plants and animals, such as Santa Gertrudis and Charlois cattle and triticale and modern varieties of wheat, have been developed by evolution from earlier forms in our lifetimes.

However, we should note that all unequivocally-documented

evidence has been accomplished under human guidance. Using the reasoning methods normally employed in science, the role of human guidance in proven cases of evolution becomes a powerful argument that all evolution has been guided by the intelligence of God.

Again, where is the conflict? The fact is there are no conflicts but simply a growth in our understanding of how God has accomplished his wonderful creation.

Paul told the Romans, "Ever since God created the world his everlasting power and deity — however invisible — have been there for the mind to see in the things he has made" (Rom. 1:20).

The function of science is to make these things visible, because Jesus told us, "...learn the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). Only in this way "...will we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself" (Eph. 4:23).

After 2,000 years it is time for Christians to focus on learning the truth, stop persecuting those who seek the truth, free ourselves from ignorance and fear, and begin becoming mature, perfect people.

Zimbabwe Christians reporting persecution

GWERU, Zimbabwe (BP) — Screams pierced the air as invaders forced their way onto the farm just outside Gweru, Zimbabwe.

The attackers forcibly marched frightened farm workers to the workers' living compound, where they beat the workers with axes, picks, and heavy sticks. Others forced to strip to their underclothes in the middle of the Zimbabwe winter and then sing and dance by the firelight.

The owners of the farm, Derek and Sandy Shaw, locked themselves in the main house and watched as the path of destruction headed their way. The couple had fully expected their farm to be forcefully invaded by the government-backed war veterans, but no one was prepared for God's miraculous intervention when the invasion happened.

As the attack reached its climax, the phone that never worked rang. Sandy reached for it, totally surprised.

Chris Anderson, pastor of Gweru Church, was calling to see if there was anything he could pray about with the couple. Within minutes, a prayer chain started and spread throughout the community, crossing denominational and racial barriers.

"Chris told me on the phone to remember that miracles still happen. I told him, 'I'm watching one right now,'" Sandy Shaw said. "Right in front of



HERE TO STAY — After squatters invade commercial and private farms in Zimbabwe, they quickly build shanties to claim ownership of the land. The wife of a war veteran has the duty of smearing mud on the outside walls of this shanty. (BP photo by Sue Sprenkle)

me, I watched my family have a sense of peace and watched the attack end just as quickly as it had started."

Political strife in Zimbabwe rages on as veterans of the country's 1970's liberation war, with President Robert Mugabe's blessing, have seized nearly 4,000 white-owned farms since February. Thirty-one people have died in the chaos.

Mugabe says the land redistribution is necessary to

address a century-old imbalance in land ownership in the country.

While this nation in turmoil struggles to find political peace, God is busy providing the inner peace found only through him. Christian leaders say Zimbabwe — whites and blacks alike — never before has been so open to Christ.

"My Grammy was the strongest Christian that I've ever known," Sandy Shaw said. "I've slipped and fell back from God, but this whole thing has let me know that God still cares for us. I see my need for God and want him to take over my life."

It was only in the 1960's that Christianity began to take root in Zimbabwe's rural areas and gradually spread across the country. Now, just 40 years later, Christians are taking a stand despite open persecution.

The persecution began when Mugabe ordered all churches across the country to shut down on Sundays for political rallies supporting the ruling party, ZANU-PF.

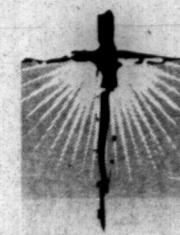
Christians were warned that, if they worshiped, the buildings would be burned down and those worshipping

would be severely beaten. Residents were ordered to attend the closest political rally or they would be beaten as well.

Some churches closed, but many more opened their doors and fearlessly worshiped and prayed for Zimbabwe.

Newly-elected parliament member David Colart said he sees a spiritual awakening taking place among his fellow countrymen.

"This is a landmark thing. Usually the church does whatever the government wants, but now it has come alive and taken a biblical stance," Colart said. "I don't think this is political in any way, but a spiritual awakening. It's creating a drastic change in people. People are holding fast to their beliefs and openly sharing it with others."



MISSISSIPPI
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THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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10 years ago

Guy Henderson, Mississippi Baptists' director of evangelism since 1981, is tapped to succeed Don McGregor as editor of The Baptist Record. McGregor will retire on Dec. 31 after more than 16 years at the helm of the weekly journal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

20 years ago

A total of \$30,000 in Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering funds is allocated to assist in the purchase of land for the Indian church in Pascagoula, which after less than a year in existence has grown to more than 40 members and recorded 36 professions of faith.

30 years ago

The Chinese Ministry of First Church, Greenville, anticipates that its 100th member will soon be baptized. When that milestone is reached, it will represent half of the entire Chinese community in Greenville. Five professions of faith have been recorded just over the summer period.

LORD OF LOVE — Zimbabwean pastor Jeffrey Ncube tells children at the Gweru market about Jesus' love. Ncube led a group of volunteers from Zimbabwe and the United States to talk about Christ in marketplaces and homes. (BP photo by Sue Sprenkle)

S. Africans hear Gospel

GAMALAKHE, South Africa (BP) — Seated on a soccer field under an afternoon sun, several thousand Zulu students recently made decisions for Christ in South Africa. A volunteer team from North Carolina spent a week in July visiting 11,000 students at 19 schools in the Gamalakhe area.

One day, the schools closed early, allowing 7,000 students, teachers, principals, and community members to gather on a soccer field. The Gospel was presented after three large student choirs performed. More than 3,500 students made some kind of decision for Christ at the rally and during the week.

"The rally truly turned out to be an African-style rally," reported Andrew Limbaugh, an International Mission Board missionary to South Africa. "Even though it seemed totally chaotic and completely unorganized at times, there were many who heard and responded to the message of the Gospel."

The 8.5 million Zulu live primarily in the area of kwaZulu Natal. While there are many Christian Zulus, people commonly mix their Christianity with traditional ancestor worship.

The Zulu traditionally believe their ancestors intercede for them to a distant god. They offer sacrificial animals and ceremonial beer to appease and speak to their ancestors.

"While contacting the schools about the possibility of this event, all the principals enthusiastically accepted the idea," Limbaugh said. "We heard comments like, 'We have too many gods in our schools,' and 'Many of the children here are into devil worship,' and 'There are many drugs in our schools.'

"What a testimony of the need here."

Veteran voice to relay new Bible translation

Alaska Baptists tap Baldwin as new executive

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP) — Alaska Baptists elected David Baldwin as their new executive director and gave first approval to a new constitution during their Aug. 8-9 annual meeting at Rabbit Creek Community Church in Anchorage.

Baldwin, current director of evangelism/church growth for the Alaska Baptist Convention, was elected without opposition following a brief presentation from the search committee during the convention's opening session.

Baldwin, a 20-year veteran of work in Alaska, served previously as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Fairbanks and as director of missions for the Tanana Valley Baptist Association before joining the Alaska convention's staff. Baldwin received an enthusiastic reception as he was introduced to the messengers.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Max McLean is tired but happy. The veteran stage actor recently finished a half-day recording session on Nashville's Music Row in a studio more typically graced by the likes of Garth Brooks and Hank Williams Jr.

McLean wasn't there to sing. He was reading the Book of Revelation from the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB), a new translation being published by Holman Bible Publishers, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The recording can be heard next year when an audio edition of the HCSB New Testament is released to Christian bookstores nationwide.

"Intense," is McLean's one-word assessment of the experience, which required his Thespian voice to be consistent and precise while reading all 22 chapters of Revelation.

Born in Panama, McLean has lived in America since he was 4. He studied theater at the Mountview Theatre School in



MAX MCLEAN — Max McLean records the book of Revelation from the new Holman Christian Standard Bible at a Nashville recording studio. (BP special photo)

London and has performed in Scotland, at the Riverside Shakespeare Festival in New York, and in other distinguished theaters before devoting his career to dramatic interpretations of the Bible in 1983.

Reviewers from The New York Times to Moody publica-

tions to the Jewish News have applauded McLean's talent for bringing biblical texts to life.

"The first thing I do with a new translation is look at John 1," he said. "The HCSB rendering was terrific."

Basing their work on the original biblical languages, the

80-plus translators, editors, and stylists working to complete the HCSB are pursuing a goal to develop an accurate and reader-friendly English translation.

To date, "Experiencing the Word Through the Gospels" offers the HCSB newly translated text of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and the devotional book "Living with the End in Sight" features Revelation. The HCSB New Testament text will be released in 2001 and the complete Bible in 2004.

McLean became involved with the HCSB translation after three LifeWay employees saw him perform. When discussions began about who would be the most qualified candidate to record an audio version of the HCSB New Testament, McLean's name kept coming up.

"I thought, 'The Lord's just making this way too easy,'" McLean said. "The Bible is living and active, and there's nothing I'd rather do than be a part of giving life to this new and important translation."

Scholars view ethnic violence through child's eyes

GOSTIVAR, Macedonia (ABP) — The 5-year-old Albanian girl probably couldn't spell "ethnic cleansing," but her spontaneous words at an international conference on the subject may have upstaged the best work of a roomful of scholars.

"We don't want to be killed. We don't want war. All we want is to live in peace," the tiny "Besnika" told an interfaith, multinational group gathered in early August for the first public reading and signing of The Stockholm Accords on Ethnic Cleansing.

Eloquent words denouncing wholesale murder and relocation of ethnic and religious groups in the document's first four written translations — English, Macedonian, Albanian, and Turkish — had just moved a roomful of adults in Gostivar, Macedonia, to a spirited discussion.

Darting almost unnoticed to take her turn at a microphone, Besnika probably didn't know that "ethnic cleansing" is as old as the Crusades but as recent as atrocities in Rwanda, Burundi, and an Islamic jihad declared against Christians in the Malukas Islands of Indonesia.

However, she understood the pain of family members and classmates who had fled to Macedonia as refugees from the ethnic bloodbath in neighboring Kosovo.

As Besnika spoke, the Stockholm Accords — hailed as a document to help begin an international movement to end ethnic annihilation — took on new inspiration for the unlikely mix of Americans, Albanians, and Macedonians; Muslims, Orthodox, and Protestant Christians.

Mesmerized by her blonde hair and pink outfit and touched by profound words of wisdom beyond her years, grown men and women brushed away tears.

Differences and problems gave way, at least for that moment, to a common resolve to change a world in which 170 million children, women, and men died in the 20th century at the hands of their own governments via genocide, ethnic cleansing, and political mass murder.

That's more than the combined casualties of all the wars in the 20th century. It made the century "the bloodiest one in human history," said Gregory Stanton, who directs the Washington, D.C.-based Campaign to End Genocide.

A sentence in the preamble of the four-page, nine section

Stockholm Accords calls on "women and men of every nation" to denounce ethnic cleansing in all its forms.

Because of Besnika, Doug Tipps, president of Global Strategies International in San Marcos, Texas, who envisioned and spearheaded the movement against ethnic cleansing, said he would ask the group to add the word "children."

Another conference leader said many people call it "naive to think we can initiate a worldwide movement to end ethnic cleansing in the 21st century."

"People said the same thing about efforts to end slavery," said Derek Davis, director of Baylor University's J. M. Dawson Institute for Church-State Studies.

Davis edited the first and succeeding drafts of the accords, based on input from around the world to encompass thinking from both East and West. He coordinated a committee named last January at a meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, to compose the accords.

Washington State Supreme Court Justice Charles Smith, the grandson of slaves, wrote the first draft.

Forty-three women and men — now called "The Stockholm 43" — came to Sweden from 15 countries and all continents and represented Catholic, Muslim, Protestant, Jewish, and other traditions. That included Baptists from four countries and five U.S. states.

Davis said that in 19th century America, "no one thought slavery could be ended, but it was."

"We want to do the same thing with genocide and ethnic cleansing in the 21st century," Davis said. "We want to develop a world consciousness, a grassroots movement."

Tipps said he hopes the accords "will provide compassionate leverage for us in urging world citizens and governments to help us work in specific areas of conflict to bring about ethnic reconciliation."

"We want to work with every sector — religious, political, educational, and economic — to launch dialogue, education, and direct action to delegitimize ethnic cleansing as a political tool for conflict resolution," said Tipps, who is also pastor of First Church in San Marcos.

2001 Vacation Bible School theme is 'Truth Trackers'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Pack your bags and get ready to come along on the adventure of a lifetime!

LifeWay Christian Resources' 2001 Vacation Bible School (VBS), "Truth Trackers and the Secret of the Stone Tablets," is an action adventure taking VBS participants through the deserts of Egypt and the Middle East on an archaeological expedition in search of the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments.

Rob Sanders, biblical studies specialist in the children's VBS-ventures section of LifeWay's Sunday School group, announced the theme Aug. 25 during an employee chapel service.

In setting the theme for each year's VBS, he said a "think tank" composed of people from churches, state conventions, and associations get together and shape the idea. It is then further developed by

LifeWay editors.

VBS materials are designed for preschoolers, children, youth, and adults.

Sanders said VBS is designed with a twofold purpose: teaching preschoolers, children, youth, and adults who attend church new Bible truths, and reaching non-Christians with the good news of Jesus.

Sanders said the 2001 VBS website is www.lifeway.com/yourvbs and gives browsers access to information, resources, and tips about Truth Trackers.

Features include electronic postcards, an online catalog, product updates, and idea banks.

"We will be adding things to the website as we go," Sanders said. "It will keep growing."

The 2001 VBS materials will be available Dec. 1. They may be purchased at LifeWay Christian Stores, from the VBS website or through LifeWay customer service at (800) 458-2772.



LIVING WITH THE CONSEQUENCES

The other day some friends related to me an incident that had happened in a family. It seems as though the parents in this family had once again clearly instructed their son, a preschooler, not to do something. The boy understood the instructions, yet it wasn't long until he once again disobeyed, which prompted a family counseling session.

The mom and dad sat down with the little boy and explained to him why he was not allowed to do that particular thing, and then they proceeded to lay out the terms of the punishment if he repeated the offense.

The dad explained, "If you do that again, you are going to have to live with the consequences!" The little boy burst into tears, which soon became uncontrollable sobs, as he cried and cried.

Although he was a good kid, and a sensitive kid, they had never seen anything like this kind of emotion in their son. They wondered what in the world could have caused him to react this way.

The parents began trying to quiet him down, and as he began to get control of his emotions they were finally able to talk with him.

They asked, "What is wrong son?" The boy replied, "Well, you said if I ever did that again I would have to live with the consequences, and I don't even know those people!"

Whether we understand or not, or whether we know those folks or not, each of us has to live with the consequences. For most conscientious parents



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

one of the oft-repeated, difficult to convey, instruction to their children is, "we all have to live with the consequences of our decision-making!"

Children seem to come here with a natural bent toward blaming other people and then they cultivate that capability into a skill that will not serve them well.

Our original parents, Adam and Eve, were like that. They both sinned, but they both had an explanation that basically said, "It's not my fault!" Adam said, "The woman thou gavest me, she...." The woman pointed and said that the snake had deceived her. As you know, the snake didn't have a leg to stand on!

It may not appear as important as it actually is for a child to learn early that bad decision-making and wrong choices lead to consequences that may not be good.

One of the on-going difficulties with which teachers deal is children who will not accept responsibility. Then they are confronted by parents who, rather than teaching their child to be responsible, want to reprimand the teacher.

Respected or not, there are woven into life moral and ethical laws that govern

our conduct and decision-making. The Word of God is our standard. It is a light unto our path. It is a guide that will not lead you astray.

Make decisions apart from God's revelation to us, go your own way, bow to the god of your own thoughts, simply do what you want to do, and you will have to live with the consequences!

So what are we supposed to do when we make wrong decisions, choose wrong relationships, go down the wrong road? Is there any hope? Is there any help? Absolutely! Three words would be helpful to remember:

- **Admit.** In the Bible the word is confess and it means to agree with God. When he sees and knows that we have done wrong, don't try to cover up, or explain away, or blame others — just simply "admit."

- **Submit.** This is the heart of the Gospel — that you and I can submit our broken and sometimes shattered lives to a God of mercy, forgiveness, and renewal. Jesus came into this world to save us from the sin that ruins us. He loves us and is not out to hurt us, but to help us — to save us — and yet we run from him rather than submit to him.

- **Commit.** Follow him. Commit your life to him daily, desiring that he reign as Lord of your life. He will not mislead you, and he will do you good!

Turn your life over to Jesus. Follow him and you will be glad to live with the consequences!

Jumpstart orientation canceled

The orientation meeting scheduled September 12 at the Baptist Building in Jackson for the Maryland/Delaware Operation Jumpstart weekends has been canceled.

Both Jumpstart weekends — October 6-8 and October 13-15 — have been filled. There are still several openings for the March 2001 weekends, and orientation for those meetings will be February 15, 2001, at the Baptist Building.

For more information, contact Matt Buckles, church administration/pastoral ministries director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3308 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 308. E-mail: mbuckles@mbcb.org

NAMB implementing evangelism group changes

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Recently announced organizational changes in the evangelism group of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) have already been implemented while others will not be completed until the end of the year, according to an Aug. 23 letter from John Yarbrough, NAMB vice-president of evangelism to state Baptist convention evangelism staff members.

The letter details the addi-

tion of three new national missionary positions, but deletion of three current missionary positions, as well as creation of two new staff positions at the Alpharetta, Ga., offices but elimination of five staff positions.

The three new national missionaries will focus on evangelism over the Internet, through welfare-to-work opportunities, and women.

Eliminated are one national literacy missionary position

and one interfaith missionary position. The third position was a general evangelism associate based in Fort Worth, Texas. Only one of the three positions is presently filled and that missionary will retire at the end of the year.

An employee in prayer evangelism and a support person were added to the NAMB staff earlier this year. Positions eliminated from the organization included one each devoted to special ministries, and event and multicultural evangelism. Combining two positions assigned to hunger and immigration ministries eliminated another job. A women's evangelism staff position was

changed to a national missionary.

Three of the employees serving in the deleted positions have transferred or will transfer to other NAMB positions, one will retire, and one has been dismissed and given a severance package, Yarbrough said.

"None of these changes mean we're abandoning any ministry," Yarbrough explained. "In every case, we still have people doing these things. We've simply developed more efficient processes for resourcing these ministries so that we can take advantage of new opportunities to reach people for Christ."

IMB videos offer missions challenges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The International Mission Board (IMB) has released a new line of videotapes focused on God's work around the world.

"Kids on Mission" takes children ages 5-12 to exotic locations around the world and shows them the ways God is working. Each semiannual video contains nine 10-15 minute episodes, providing two episodes per month.

"The Task," a quarterly product, encourages students in high school and college to consider how they can take the Gospel to a lost world.

"Global Harvest" captures dramatic events behind God movement to bring people into his kingdom. Each quarterly tape features six two-minute stories.

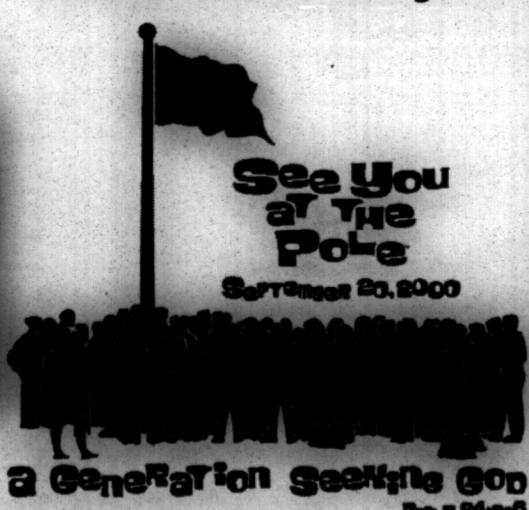
To order any of the videos, go to www.imb.org/video or call (800) 866-3621. A year's subscription to Kids on Mission or Global Harvest is \$20, and a year's subscription to The Task is \$40.

See You At The Pole

Wednesday September 20, 2000

"A Generation Seeking God"

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of Strayhorn Church, Sarah

Strayhorn Church, Sarah, Northwest Association, held a recognition program for its GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends, on July 16.

GAs (from left, back row) are Lauren Wade, Lindsey Barrett, Jesika Hensley, Ashley Demo, Anna Cates, Erica Nash, Allison Bailey; (front row) Erica O'Neal, Ashley Johnson, and Heather Spencer. Kandy Pilgrim and Juanita Brown are their leaders.

RAs (from left) are Aaron Spencer, Lee Hensley, Chris Cates, Derrick Johnson, Kent Hawkins, Blake Walker, Robbie Williams, and Blake Thompson. Leaders are Lynn Nash and Amanda Grace.

Mission Friends (from left) are Daniel Pilgrim, Skyler Grace, Tori Pilgrim, Genna Spencer, and Hunter Williams. The leader is Layne Spencer.

Violence In The Family, a workshop for clergy and other

church leaders will be held on Sept. 26 at Primos Northgate Restaurant and Convention Center. The registration deadline is Sept. 14. For more information, contact Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence at (601) 981-9196.



Mission Friends of Strayhorn Church, Sarah



RAs of Strayhorn Church, Sarah

First Church, Laurel, will offer a Walk Thru the Bible Old Testament Seminar, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 10. The seminar will conclude in the afternoon. The adult and youth seminar will be held in the sanctuary, and the children's (1st-6th grades) seminar will be in the Family Life Center. The cost of the seminar is \$12 per person, which will include lunch and snacks. To register call (601) 649-5710.

Calvary Church, Canton, will host a benefit singing featuring By His Grace quartet on Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. Potluck supper will be served at 6:30 p.m. For additional information call (601) 992-2491.

White Oak Church, Neshoba County, will celebrate its 175th anniversary on Oct. 1 at 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon activities.



Bennett, Dye, The Fishers, Enzor, and Quinn

The local chapter of the Blue Mountain College (BMC) Alumnae Association recently presented Harold Fisher, president of BMC, and his wife Martha with two watercolors of the BMC campus. Katherine Dye, a New Albany artist and 1966 BMC graduate created the two prints, Inspired Beginnings and Continued Excellence. The Local Alumnae Chapter commissioned Dye's creation of the scenes from the campus to share

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Jackson 957-3762

the spirit of BMC in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the BMC National Alumnae Association. Each print is a collage of scenes measuring 15"x20". Pictured (from left) are Leigh Bennett, committee member; Dye; Harold Fisher; Martha Fisher; Sharon Enzor, president of the local alumnae chapter; and Anna Quinn, committee member. For information on purchasing one or both of the prints, call BMC at (662) 685-4771.

William Carey College Classical Guitar Concert Series

will present the first concert of its 2000-2001 season Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery. Juan Carlos Laguna, one of Mexico's most prominent guitarists, will perform. Born in Mexico City,

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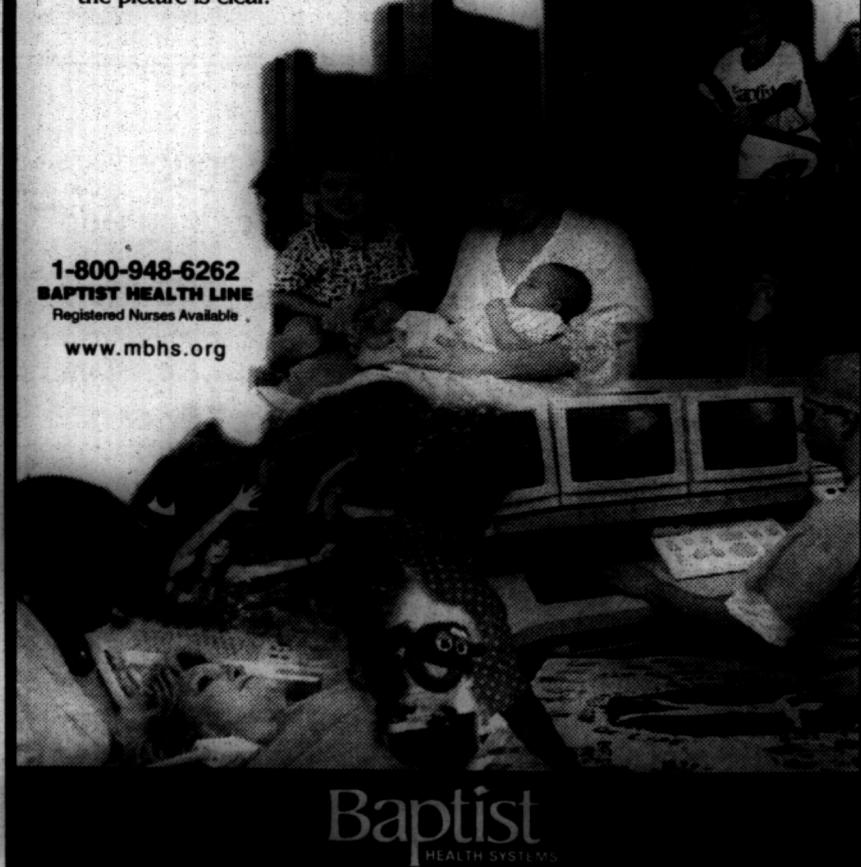
Jackson (601) 977-9676
Tupelo (662) 844-2201

he studied at the National University Music School, where he graduated with honors and is now a faculty member. Tickets are \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students and senior citizens and can be purchased at the door. For more information call (601) 582-6183.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 7, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

mississippi

See You
at The
Pole
September 20, 2000



see pole
a Generation Seeking God

Prov. 24:3-6

Wednesday, September 20
A GENERATION SEEKING GOD

Resource materials: www.syatp.com

1-817-447-7526 = 1-817-His Plan

Please report your numbers to

Don Lum, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
www.dlum@mbcb.org, 1-800-748-1651, 968-3800 (Jackson)



Attention:
All Lads
Crusaders
& Challengers

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 30

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 22

All boys grades 1-12
and their leaders

- Missionary Speaker
- Music, Testimonies
- Meet the Football Players and Cheerleaders.
- Football Game
- + MORE FUN!!!

Mississippi College
Grades 1-12
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$4 per person



Bring your own sack lunch
and drink.

For more information, please contact
Men's Ministry Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 (in Jackson)

Toward A Growing Marriage

A Biblical, Practical Marriage Seminar
FBC, Gulfport, September 22 - 23

Gary Chapman

Noted author of:

The Five Love Languages, The Five Love Languages of Children, and The Five Signs of a Functional Family

Seven High Energy Sessions with Gary Chapman

- Humorous - How to communicate in the midst of conflict
- Challenging - How to avoid financial bondage
- Exciting - How to make sex mutually fulfilling
- Relevant - How to rekindle love

Seminar Cost:

Individual Couple

Registration.....	\$45	\$75
Group Rates: 10 couples	\$60	
15 couples	\$55	
20 couples	\$50	

For more information or to register call:

1-800-254-2022 or visit www.lifeway.com/discipleplus/twdgrmrg.htm

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STATE GOAL: \$1,500,000

On Behalf
of the Land

STAND
in the
GAP

October 20
7 - 10 pm
October 21
9 am - noon
FBC, Jackson

Cost:

Early registration - \$28
(Early registration deadline: Oct. 9)

Regular registration - \$38

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NURSES ON MISSION

September 22-23, 2000
Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Miss.

Registration begins at 4:00 p.m.,
Friday, Sept. 22
The last session concludes at 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 23

PROGRAM LEADERS

Sam Gore, master sculptor
Miss. College, Clinton

Becky Brown, music evangelist
New Orleans, La.

Diane P. Smith, missionary artist
Cote d'Ivoire
West Africa

Kay Jones, nurse, Selma, Ala.
Carol Welch, Madison
Gloria Thurman, missionary

BNF REGISTRATION FORM - DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (WORK) _____ (HOME) _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ person(s)

Cost Option (check one) A. B. C.

Make checks payable to: WMU, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

Women Reaching Women Retreat

Central Hills
Baptist Retreat
October 20-21
Kosciusko

Emphasis: "Make Known the Mystery Throughout Mississippi"

Breakout session choices:

- Titus 2 Women - the great Mentoring Match-up
- HeartCall - Women sharing God's Heart (Bring a woman with you who needs Jesus and/or bring the one who knows Jesus because you led her to the Lord.)
- The Virtuous Woman - bring collegiate and young women with you!
- Mission Opportunities in Mississippi - all kinds of ways to be involved locally and globally
- The Financially Confident Woman - great \$\$\$ helps!
- My Prayer Life - practical information from a practicing prayer warrior

REGISTRATION (DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCTOBER 13)

Church _____ Association _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of Women _____ x \$40 = Total enclosed \$ _____

(Please attach a sheet with the names of the women)

Cost: \$40 (lodging, 3 meals and registration) (make check to MBCB)

Mail to: WMU, Women Reaching Women Retreat, PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205

for more info: 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 968-3800

Outreach Strategy Tour in a New Century

FBC, Vancleave, October 16

FBC, Lucedale, October 23

With the renewed interest in Sunday School and a focus on Sunday School for a New Century, people all over the state are learning anew the importance of reaching out. There are also a variety of outreach programs and strategies to aid in helping fellow Christians follow the Great Commission in reaching others.

But which one is right for your church?

The Outreach Strategy Tour is a conference designed to help your church decide and plan an outreach program tailored to the needs of your congregation. The morning session, from 9 a.m. to noon, is specifically designed for pastors and key leaders to discuss some basic elements of forming an outreach strategy, and begin designing a strategy for the local church. That evening, from 7-9 p.m., all the Sunday School leadership will be involved in learning more about how to reach their age group for Christ. In addition, consultants will be available by appointment throughout the afternoon to discuss any specific needs in your ministry area.

If we receive the completed registration form by September 27, your church will receive demographics of your area, useful in planning an outreach strategy. One per church, please. All other participants need to register by October 9, 2000.

Schedule for both locations:

9 a.m.-noon Outreach Strategy for Pastors and Staff
Afternoon Individual Consultations Available (call our office to schedule)
7-9 p.m. Outreach through the Sunday School/Age Group Outreach Training

Faculty:

FBC, Vancleave
October 16

FBC, Lucedale
October 23

Preschool:
Children:
Youth:
Adult:
General Officer:

Melinda Jones
Betty Davis
Mark Lott
Brenda Davis
John Clendinning
David Wills

Melinda Jones
Linda Reeves
Brian McKee
Bill Ready
John Clendinning
David Wills

Registration Form Outreach Strategy Tour

Church Name _____
Church Phone _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Contact person _____
Location: Vancleave Lucedale

Demographics Requested by (choose one only)

Zip code (please specify) _____
Mile Radius from church _____
North/South/East/West Boundaries (name streets/highways)

Mail to:

Sunday School Department, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530
Phone 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson
E-mail: ss@mbcb.org
Register online: www.mbc.org/ss

AGELESS MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT "NEVER the Same"

October 13-14, Camp Garaywa

Any daughter ages 5 - 105+ and their mother are invited.
(Grandmothers, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Granddaughters)

Cost: \$27.50 per person

Begins at 5 pm Friday and concludes at 2 pm Saturday

Registration Form - Deadline September 29

Parent's Name _____			
Daughter's Name/Age _____			
Address _____	City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Phone number _____	(H) _____	(W) _____	
Church Name _____	Association _____		
Emergency Contact: Name _____	Phone _____		
Number attending _____	x \$27.50 = \$ _____ (total enclosed)		

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)
Mail to: WMU, Ageless Mother/Daughter Overnight, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PIKE ASSOCIATION DISCIPLESHIP RALLY

Featured speaker
Gene Wilkes

author of *Jesus in Ten Days*

Monday, September 25

6:30 p.m.

Silver Creek Baptist Church

McComb



Pray this day for...

September 8 - 21, 2000

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A VITAL KEY TO JOYFUL PRAYER - Forsake all things that hinder spiritual growth - When Andrew Murray suggested that "we pray as we live, it is the life that prays," he hit upon a vital key to joyful prayer. Those who would pray well must heed Paul's directive. "Put to death therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature." (Col. 3:5)

PRAY! Magazine

Baptist representatives Joe and Kim Kelley request prayer for a new Bible study that was started in Irkutsk, Russia. Pray that this Bible study group will have a solid core group and become a church.

Pray also for new works. Anti-Gambling Day (CAC) "As long as one person cares, there is hope." Today is an opportunity for all Baptists to speak out against this American blight. Pray for Christians

For (1) Bible Drill Clinics, Pearl River Assn. Office, McNeil, Washington Assn. Office, Greenville (D&FM); (2) Pray for Christian believers who are researching and sharing among the scattered Oirat Mongolians of China.

you know who gamble. The spiritual situation of the people of Ukraine is also desperate. Please pray for the people of Ukraine to come out of the darkness and into God's wonderful light.

For (1) Bible Drill Clinics, Lee Assn. Office, Tupelo; Metro Assn. Office, Jackson (D&FM); (2) A Last Frontier nation fall "vision trip" is being planned. Ask God to raise up Christian businessmen and others to go.

Missionaries in Hong Kong write: "We meet many elderly people, and they need the Lord so much. Ask God to release them from the spiritual bondage to idolatry and open their eyes to the truth of Jesus."

The 500,000 Waci (WAH-chee) of Togo and Benin have only a few churches. Pray that the Holy Spirit will mature the believers there, inspiring them to reach out and start new works in unreached areas.

For "See you at the Pole" students and teachers who gather around the flag pole of many schools in Mississippi to pray for their schools, protection from violence, their country, their parents, their home, etc.

For Bible Drill Clinics, Golden Triangle Assn. Office, Columbus; Lauderdale Assn. Office, Meridian (D&FM)

Baptist reps, Barry and Linda Barnet, Spain, give praise for Ala. mission volunteers who led a Backyard Bible Club. The response was great. Pray that this outreach and ministry will continue in the park.

For (1) September Sunday School Training, Gulfshore Assembly/FBC, Batesville, (SS); (2) There are 500,000 Lezgi people in Azerbaijan. Pray that they could have a New Testament in their own language, as well as a copy of the "Jesus" film.

Dan Arce is a church planter pastoring the Orosi Filipino Baptist Church. Pray that the Lord would provide a larger space, continuous travel protection for Dan, and that the members will invite relatives and friends.

For (1) "Parents of Preschoolers Day," Camp Garawa (WMU); (2) Clyde Billingsley, executive director, Montana SB Fellowship needs a Nehemiah project man to work in Miles City.

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Challenge to Build

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A Missions Youth Trip for Acteens and Advisors

For more info or an application, contact Robin Keels, WMU, MBCB 1-800-748-1651, ext. 322, or in the Jackson area 292-3316

Women's Prayer Celebration Retreat
"Beyond Belief"

*Speaker: Chris Adams
Musicians: Donna Lundell and Pam Weigle
Missionary Emphasis: Paula Smith*

September 29-30, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

- Gifts from the Heart - Deboria Watts
- Transformed Lives: Taking Women's Ministry to the Next Level - Chris Adams
- Sisters Who Care - Debora Joiner
- Launching Language Ministries - Paula Smith
- Plus many more led by the Women of the State Visionary Team

Registration (No refunds after 9/5)

Church _____ Association _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of Women _____ x Cost Per Person=Total enclosed \$ _____

(Please attach a sheet with the names of the women)

Cost: \$50 (lodging, 3 meals and registration)

\$28.25 (no lodging/includes registration and meals)

\$13 (registration fee only/no lodging, no meals)

Make checks payable to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

**Mail to: Women's Retreat, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street
Pass Christian, MS 39571**

For info contact Kathy Burns: 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 968-3800, kburns@mbcb.org

HOUSE TOPS.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Note burning at Wade Church, Jackson County

Wade Church, Jackson County, held a note burning for the church building on Aug. 20. The loan of \$650,000 (10 year loan) was paid off in four years. Taking part in the ceremony (pictured from left) are Bill Barton and Mack Rushing.

Seminary Church, Seminary, had 160 people in attendance for High Attendance Day on Aug. 20 as part of the church's 3rd annual Sunday School rally. The speaker was J. Alan Miller, director of missions for Caldwell, Deer Creek, and Richland Baptist

Barefoot Springs Church, Pelahatchie, will celebrate 100 years on Sept. 10 at 10:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be J. C. Renfroe of Pearl. James Smith, former minister of music, will be leading the music. Other activities include dinner on the grounds at noon, and afternoon service with music by Renfroe and the Antiques. Ted Hawkins is pastor.

Association of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. On Saturday evening, the church honored its Sunday School teachers with a Teachers Appreciation Banquet. The church has grown over the past three years from an average attendance in the 70's to an average attendance that now borders on 100. Frank Bishop has been pastor of Seminary Church for seven years. Ray Strebeck is director of the Sunday School.

National Campers on Missions Rally for 2000 was held in Shawnee, Okla., June 18-23. The music was under the

direction of Sam Hendry, a native of Hattiesburg and music director of Emmanuel Church in Shawnee. Campers attending the rally from Mississippi (pictured from left) were DeWitt and Kathryn Craft, Liberty; L. C. Hoff, Brookhaven; James and Alice Bridges, Vicksburg; Bill and Mary Riley, Stringer; Pat and Betty Pickering, Collins; Rickey and Edith Youngblood, Moss Point; Charles and Naomi Lee, Tupelo; Harvey and Betty McCrimmon, Carriere; Aubrey and Jane Irwin, Gattier; and Hendry (seated in front).



Mississippians at the National Campers on Mission Rally

HOECOMINGS

Lighthouse Church, Richland: Sept. 10; 9:45 a.m., high attendance day in Sunday School; 11 a.m., worship; Cliff Davis, former pastor, preaching; covered dish lunch at noon; Gospel singing at 1:30 p.m. featuring The Promise Quartet of Blackhawk; Sammy J. McDonald, pastor.

New Prospect, Brookhaven: Sept. 10; services, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Wilson Winstead, former interim pastor, guest speaker; William (Dub) Nelson, music; Rita Turner, pianist; and Janice Williams, organist; lunch served in fellowship hall; memorial service and cemetery report by Janice Goza; Willie Welch, pastor.

Oregon Memorial, Lexington: Sept. 17; 10:30 a.m.

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dinner in fellowship hall, 12:30 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. singing with The Music Men from Jackson and Taylorsville; Gus Merritt, former pastor, Newton, guest speaker; Doug Applegate, pastor.

Algoma (Pontotoc): Oct. 1; 95th anniversary; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Kermit McGregor, Mendenhall, message; lunch served at noon; afternoon service featuring Don Whaley will begin at 1:30 p.m.; Don Smith, pastor.

New Providence (Copiah): Sept. 17; morning service will be followed by dinner on the grounds and an afternoon singing service; Dexter Ware, former pastor, guest speaker.

Furrs, Pontotoc: Sept. 10; 10 a.m.; Bobby Caples, former pastor, guest speaker; Talmadge Smith, music; Joe Herndon, interim pastor.

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Group denounces 'holy war'

SKOPJE, Macedonia (ABP) — An international movement against ethnic cleansing has written an open letter condemning Muslims who have declared a holy war against Christians in Indonesia.

Islamic extremists have since 1999 killed thousands of Christians in the Malukus Islands of Indonesia. Thousands of others have fled as refugees. The island nation in Southeast Asia is about 80% Muslim.

Framers of the new Stockholm Accords on Ethnic Cleansing, a multinational, interfaith effort aimed at ending genocide in the 21st century, denounced the call to "jihad" in an August meeting in Macedonia.

The open letter calls on people inside and outside Indonesia to cease "instigating, aiding, or abetting hatred, violence, genocide, or ethnic cleansing." It further urges aid to displaced persons and efforts to return them safely to their homes.

It also calls for "creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, consisting of reputable and honorable Indonesians of diverse backgrounds and experiences, to reaffirm that all human life is sacred, and to provide a healing response to violence."

Inhabitants of the Malukus and all Indonesians should "establish a means of seeking restoration, reconciliation and healing for all ethnic, racial, and religious communities of their land," the letter says.

South Mississippi Evangelism Conference

First Baptist Church ◆ Gulfport, MS

Monday, September 11 ◆ 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jim Futral
executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Dr. James Merritt
president
Southern Baptist Convention

Youth Evangelism Rally
in the B. Frank Brown Gymnasium
Jim Shaddix, New Orleans, speaker
Chris Layton, Hattiesburg, music

Tuesday, September 12

11 a.m.

Senior Adult Evangelism Rally and Luncheon
Sonny Adkins, evangelism director
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

6:30 p.m.

Dr. Chuck Kelley
president
New Orleans Seminary

Dr. Ted Traylor
1st vice president
Southern Baptist Convention

For more information call (228) 863-8501

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Revival results

Mt. Carmel, Forest: Aug. 13-16; three professions of faith; Frank Batte, Forest, evangelist; Gary Smith, pastor.



Neely and Brown

Faith, Jackson: Sept. 13-17; nightly services at 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10:50 a.m. and concert by Pat and Dana Rice, evening service; Bruce Gentry, director of missions, Bigbee Association, Ala., evangelist; Greg Wolfe, pastor. For additional information, call (601) 368-2983.

Clear Branch, Florence: Sept. 10-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; David Sheppard, Laurel, evangelist; Mike and Angela Britt, Brookhaven, music; Robby Britt, pastor.

Neshoba, Union: Sept. 10-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 6:45 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Lawrence White, McComb, music; Johnny Collins, pastor.

First, Wiggins: Sept. 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Harold Bryson, evangelist; Lavon Gray, worship leader.

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Three students at Baptist Medical Center (BMC) in Jackson have been awarded \$500 scholarships for the upcoming school year in honor of Kathryn Bearden, who served as BMC's Baptist Student Union director for 39 years. Winners pictured (from left) are Paul Neely of Harrisville and Dana Brown of Woodville. Not pictured is Bonnie Allred Longmire of Summit. Neely and Brown are both Radiologic Technology Students, while Longmire

studies Medical Technology. Bearden, a McComb native and graduate of Mississippi College, began her ministry at Gilfoyle School of Nursing shortly after graduating from New Orleans Seminary in 1957. Upon Bearden's retirement in 1996, BMC established an endowment fund in her honor to provide scholarships to deserving Medical Technology or Radiologic Technology students. Students receiving the annual scholarships must demonstrate a commitment to BMC's mission statement. Contributions to the endowment may be made through the Baptist Health Systems TRUST, 1225 N. State Street, Jackson 39205, or by calling (601) 968-1489.

Julia Massey Williams from Water Valley, received the Master of Arts in Christian Education degree in youth education on July 28 at New Orleans Seminary. Williams is minister of music and youth at First Church, Coffeeville.

Sardis Church, Copiah Association, will hold a deacon ordination service at 4 p.m. on Sept. 17 for Jesse Beard, James Freeman, and Hal Pell. Albert Parsons is pastor.

Steele Church, Forest,

Pope (Panola): Sept. 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, director, Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Ken Lewis, Pope Church, music; Jimmy Bryant, pastor.

New Palestine, Picayune: Sept. 10-13; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 6

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEED-ED. Send resume to: Providence Baptist Church, c/o Dicky Taylor, 301 Fayette Davis Avenue, Cleveland, MS 38732.

Thompson, Smithdale: Sept. 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, McComb, guest preacher; Ed May, McComb, music; Jay Victory, pastor.

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Boggan, Sharp, Cooper, and Vaughn



Wilkinson and Davis

recently held deacon ordination service. Pictured (from left) are John Boggan, pastor; Barry Sharp and Tom Cooper, new deacons; and Scott Vaughn, BSU director, East Central Community College, Decatur, who brought the charge to Sharp and Cooper.

New Hebron

Church, New Hebron, licensed Wade Davis to the Gospel ministry on Aug. 20. Davis is available for ministry and can be contacted at (601) 694-2635. Pictured (from left) are David Wilkinson, pastor; and Davis.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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MONTE VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH of Maryville, TN is seeking a full-time minister of youth and young adults. We are affiliated with CBF and SBC. Send resumes and recommendations to Monte Vista Baptist Church, 1735 Old Niles Ferry Road, Maryville, TN 37803.

APPRECIATES EDITORIALS

Editor:

This letter is to express my appreciation for your weekly editorials. I look forward each week to receiving The Baptist Record, and your editorial is the first thing I read.

You express your ideas and opinions in a kind and positive way. I do agree with your thoughts; however, I think even if I disagreed I could still appreciate what you have to say.

Please continue to push for family values which will encourage our young people to help build a better Mississippi for future generations.

Charles V. Smith
Jackson

ANNIVERSARY SET

Editor:

Seminary Extension will celebrate its 50th anniversary next June at the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. Right now I am collecting information about some of the early Seminary Extension students, so they can be honored at this celebration. One of these is Seminary Extension's first student, Wayne Upton, a serviceman, who enrolled in Old Testament as a correspondence student in September, 1951.

Since Seminary Extension's first home was in the Baptist Building in Jackson, I am especially interested in getting information and/or photos of students, teachers, center directors, and events from the 1950's-60's in Mississippi.

Your readers can write me at 901 Commerce Street, Suite 500, Nashville, TN 37203; or telephone (615) 782-8639.

Leonard Hill
Nashville

CELEBRATE CONSTITUTION

Editor:

Would you please encourage ministers in your various con-

gregations to include the following announcement in appropriate church newsletters, orders of service, or other church notices?

"You have an opportunity to celebrate the 213th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution during Constitution week, Sept. 17-23.

"Take a moment during these days to recall the miraculous achievements of our Founding Fathers and the nature of limited government, as well as the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizenship. Revere and honor this loving document, the great charter that has guided this great nation in peace and in crisis and which can guide our descendants for generations to come."

Juanita Messer
Miss. State Society
Daughters of the American
Revolution, Jackson

WELL DONE, DAN

Editor:

Mississippi Baptists have wonderful facilities at Central Hills Retreat. The new lodges will certainly add to its usefulness, and so will the planned activities building.

A dedicated staff and volunteers have made the camp a superb place for our children and youth to have a great Christian experience in a wonderful environment.

Anyone who knows Central Hills must automatically think of Dan West. His faithful, watchful dedication to the ministry of the camp has made it what it is today. Many young men who served as staffers in the summer have been influenced for life. Many children have made professions of faith at the camp.

Let Mississippi Baptists join me in saying to Dan, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I'm sorry Dan felt a need to resign as director, but pray God's blessings upon him in the days ahead.

George Johnson
Belzoni

BEGIN AT HOME

Editor:

The Guest Opinion article by missionary Jeff Parker made such an impression on me. Jeff expressed the very heart of missions — that of beginning here at home.

Not to take anything away from partnerships with other states and foreign countries — I have been a part of both — but do we have within our state a church-to-church partnership sustained for any length of time, such as one to two years?

Participating in a recent medical mission effort in Tchula, I could see some of the very same needs that I encountered in my work,

while living next door to Jeff Parker in Zimbabwe.

We think of other states and other countries as needing us, and indeed they do — but less than one, two, and two-and-a-half hours from our front door there are the same kinds of needs — for food, clothing, vaccinations, a place to worship.

Isn't it time we partnered within our own state to answer some of these needs?

What can we do about it?
What will we do about it?

Betty Barham Newsom
Sontag

AB PROBLEMS?

Editor:

Is anyone else experiencing the problem of the Annuity Board (AB) medical insurance refusing to pay, mishandling claims, and/or showing general incompetence?

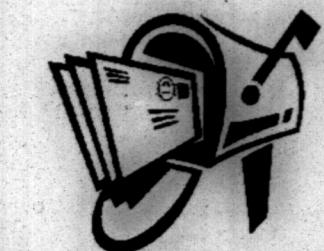
Is it time to ask for something better for the large premiums we are asked to pay?

It is frustrating to have to worry about being turned over to a collection agency every time you go to the doctor.

I feel it is time to investigate and challenge the Annuity Board and the choices they are making in this area.

Service continues to deteriorate while premiums continue to go up. Does anyone else feel the same?

Alex Lawson
Senatobia



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.



Trinity Church, Petal, has called Lance Crocker as youth director effective July 19. Crocker is a graduate of William Carey College (WCC). He previously served as a missionary in Tennessee and he worked with the BSU at WCC. Steve Johnson is pastor.



Wade Church, Wade, has called Robert McKay Pearce as minister of music effective Aug. 20. Pearce received his education at William Carey College in Hattiesburg and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at West Ellisville Church in Ellisville.

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Michael's Watch


But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said,
"The Lord rebuke you." - Jude 1:9

Michael's Watch is a support group whose sole purpose and mission is to offer emotional, mental, and spiritual support for those whose lives have been affected by family members or loved ones involved in the homosexual lifestyle.

Michael's Watch Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month at First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Additional information may be obtained by calling **First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi** at (662) 773-6246.

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Retired pastor praised by congregation, governor

By J. Nonnie Jefcoat, pastor
Plainway Church, Laurel

Harold C. Ishee, pastor emeritus of Plainway Church, Laurel, was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1950 by Enon Church, Jasper Association. From the day of his ordination, he led a small group initially organized as Joe Wheeler Mission, which has grown into one of the larger churches in Laurel and is now known as Plainway Church.

His leadership, bolstered by a small band of other dedicated officers and fellow servants, began a work of faith which since 1950 has reached countless souls for Christ's Kingdom.

His dedication to the Lord and his 35 years as the church's first and only pastor until 1985, have left an imprint of Jesus on an untold number of lives.

Ishee took his ordination to preach the Gospel to heart, and still today is an outstanding example of scholarship and sound

preaching ability that has always been dynamic yet tender and warm.

In July of this year, Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove recognized Ishee for his half-century of service to the Lord and commended his "great spiritual leadership and extraordinary service to humankind."

He always gives God the praise and credit for his ministry, plus he is quick to add that his flock is and always shall be the spiritual key to any church's progressive spiritual growth, through prayerful support and presence.

Ishee retired from Plainway Church in April 1985, but he hasn't missed a heartbeat of service to the church. He has served



Ishee

the following congregations since 1985: Sharon (six-month interim) and Summerland (eight-month interim) in Jones Association and Stringer (18-month interim) in Jasper Association.

Ishee currently serves Lowry Creek Church, Jones Association, where he has been interim pastor for 11 years. During his career he has held not only these pastorates, but also preached numerous revivals and still remains actively involved in Jones Association.

The congregation of Plainway Church thanks Harold C. Ishee in Christ for his service and loving care, and our prayer for him and his family is that he will keep preaching and pastoring as long as the Lord directs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS • SEPTEMBER 10, 2000

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

How does God help?

Psalm 46:1-11

By Heather Cumberland

When my little cousin was two years old, I spent a week with him at my grandparents' house. He was in that "I can do everything for myself" stage. One day, I saw him grab his cup and head toward the refrigerator. With a determined look on his face he pulled on the refrigerator door. His little body could not budge the big, white door. He pulled and pulled until finally he looked up to me and said, "Open, please."

Just as I was standing there waiting to help him open the refrigerator, God is waiting to help us. All we need to do is ask.



Cumberland

In difficult circumstances, we need to remember that God is our refuge and strength (v. 1). When I think of a refuge, I think of someone or something to run to when we are in trouble or afraid. Has there ever been a time in your life that you just "ran away" into the arms of God?

Once we run toward God, how does he help us? As this passage of Scripture tells us, he helps us in several ways. First of all, he gives us strength (v. 1). When we no longer have strength to face the bills, the job, or the family, God gives us the strength.

My partners and I spent day after day in the hot sun. We went to bed late and got up early. I began to see, though, that the days that I began with a prayer admitting to God that there was no way I could make it through on my own strength were the days he took control and reached people in ways that I could never have done on my own. He became my strength.

God also helps by giving us hope. He is in the midst of us through everything (v. 7). This verse does not say that he is

sitting in Heaven waiting to intervene in case there is an emergency. It says that he is with us, in the middle of everything we face.

Even when there seems to be no hope in your situation, God is in the middle of it. I was reminded the other day that Job did not get to read the book of Job. He did not know that Satan was testing him. He just thought God was punishing him for something he had done. Although he did not understand what he could have done to merit such punishment, he still remained faithful to the Lord.

After losing all of his family and possessions, he had every right to lose hope, but he continued to have hope in the Lord. What a wonderful testimony! Are you going through a difficult situation that seems hopeless? If so, be encouraged

and know that God is in the midst of your trials.

Sometimes we can not seem to find God anywhere in our situation because we are not really looking for him. In the New American Standard Bible, verse ten reads, "Cease striving and know that I am God."

We try so hard to make things happen and we worry so often about things that are beyond our control. We go days without taking time to step back and see who God is and hear what he is saying to us.

According to this verse, sometimes we need to just cease striving. We need to stop working for material things and quit planning life minute by minute. Simply cease striving and know that God is in control and that he is ready, willing, and very much able to help.

Cumberland is advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Power to serve

Acts 2:1-36

By Wayne VanHorn

Last week we looked at the preparation necessary to serve God. This week's lesson focuses upon the divine power that makes human preparation efficacious.

Ten days after his ascension our Lord sent his Spirit down upon his disciples. He chose the day of Pentecost, the Jewish festival celebrating the completion of the barley-harvest (Lev. 23:15-16; Deut. 16:9-10).

Pentecost was one of three festivals which the men of Israel were required to attend and to participate. The Law decreed that the people "rejoice before the Lord" and "remember that you were slaves in Egypt" (Deut. 16:9-12).

Pentecost celebrated God's provision of the harvest and



VanHorn

his deliverance of the people from bondage. Perhaps God chose this festival to pour out his Spirit to remind his people that the Christian life is one of rejoicing in the Spirit and to remind them that they were once under the bondage of sin and death (Eph. 2:1-4).

Coming of the Spirit (vv. 1-3). Luke used an interesting word to announce Pentecost's arrival. The verb rendered "fully come" in the King James Version and "came" in the New International Version speaks to both the condition and timing of the event.

Luke, the only New Testament author to use this term, employed the same term in Luke 9:51 to mark the moment that Jesus set his face to go toward Jerusalem.

The time was right for Jesus to fulfill his promise of Acts 1:4-5. Luke compared the coming of the Spirit to the sound of a strong wind and fire.

This outpouring of the Spirit is a watershed event for the church. Jesus would be with his disciples through his Spirit empowering them to speak in his name. Today, as then, every believer becomes part of the body of Christ, the church, through Spirit baptism (1 Cor. 12:13).

Power of the Spirit (vv. 4-6). The Charismatic movement of the 1970's, fully blossoming right now, has stirred much debate on the issue of speaking in tongues.

As I see it, Luke has one thing in mind-disciples witnessing for and about Jesus. In Acts 1:8 Jesus had declared that the coming of the Spirit would empower them to be his worldwide witnesses.

The tongue is quintessentially the organ of communica-

tion! The fact that Jews from "every nation under heaven" could hear the disciples "speaking in his own language" indicates that communication is the key issue (vv. 5-6). Furthermore, the single most important aspect of this communication is that it is 'Spirit enabled' (v. 4b NIV).

Responses of the People (7-13). The disciples' audience was drawn by the sound of the tongues speaking. The reference to the disciples being Galileans (v. 7) together with the specific listing of the nations of origin (vv. 9-10) underscores the foreignness of the audience.

How can Jesus' disciples communicate the Gospel to foreigners who speak different languages? The answer is the Holy Spirit. He empowers and enables God's people to be witnesses (Luke 24:48-49).

The people heard the disciples "declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues" (v. 11b). They responded in amazement and wonder asking one another, "what does

this mean?" (v. 12). Some dismissed the event as drunkenness (v. 13).

Response of Peter (14-36). Peter and the eleven (Matthias included in their number) seized the opportunity to explain what was happening. Peter appealed to Scripture citing Joel 2:28-32 to emphasize that God was fulfilling his promises. Peter then focused on Jesus (vv. 22-36) again citing Scripture (vv. 25-28) from Psalm 16:8-11).

The Holy Spirit empowered Peter and the apostles to openly and boldly declare, "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36 NIV).

That was the message of the first century church; that is the message of the twenty-first century church! God's Spirit empowers us to speak for him just as he empowered them. He has given us power to serve.

VanHorn is pastor of First Church, Columbia.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JULY
1-31, 2000
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Wedgwood TV special to air soon

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A new television special produced by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) broadcast communications group examines in detail the Sept. 15, 1999, shootings at Wedgwood Church in Fort Worth and the inspiring testimonies of the survivors.

Titled "... and a time to heal," the one-hour documentary will be released Sept. 10 to ABC network affiliates nationwide. Individual stations will determine local air dates and times.

NAMB produces two television programs each year for network distribution as part of the Interfaith Broadcast Commission, but the Wedgwood special differs in its intense emotional impact as well as the personal involvement of several NAMB staffers who also are members of Wedgwood.

For information on broadcast dates and times for "... and a time to heal," contact local ABC affiliates.

Stadium score: 1-0 in only game that counts

IRVING, Texas (BP) — On Aug. 22 the National Football League's Dallas Cowboys were 0-4 in pre-season games, but a group of pastors meeting at Texas Stadium, home of the Cowboys, were 1-0 in the only game that really counts.

That's because on the 50-yard line, right where the big star representative of the Cowboys franchise is located on the field, the pastors led a young woman named Marcella, a stadium tour guide, to accept Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

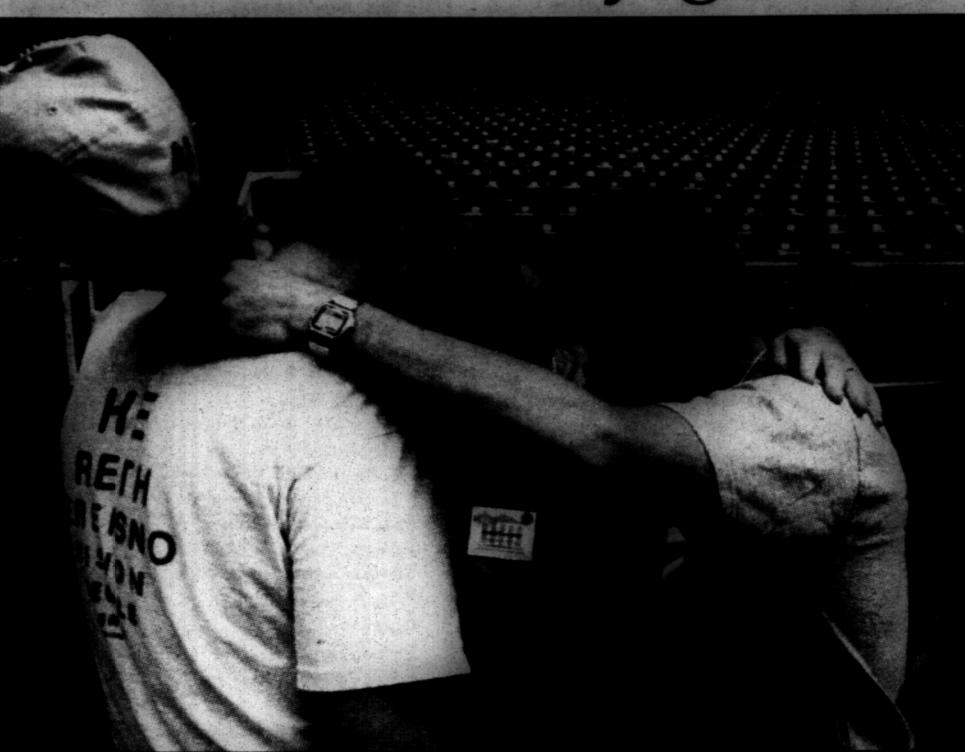
Within 20 minutes Marcella, who had moved to the Dallas area from Wichita, Kan., had witnessed to six other people, saying, "One of the things I tell visitors is that the star in the middle of the field always points toward the home team. Now I can say that it's where I was when I trusted Christ."

"This [Marcella's experience] really was the work of the Holy Spirit," said Bobby Welch, pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., where the FAITH Sunday School evangelism strategy was born 14 years ago.

The pastors were at Texas Stadium participating in a four-day National FAITH Institute sponsored by LifeWay Church Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jay Johnston, director of LifeWay's Sunday School/FAITH ministry department, said FAITH "equates to the process of a Christian going on a journey of faith to share the Gospel, minister to those in need, and grow in his or her personal relationship with Christ. Then the process begins to multiply itself."

After originating at First Church, Daytona Beach, FAITH has been introduced to Southern Baptists by LifeWay and is endorsed by the North American Mission Board.



THE ONLY GAME THAT COUNTS — Lawrence Phipps of Vaughn Forest Church in Montgomery, Ala.; Robert Martin of Kingston Church in Celeste, Texas; and Greg Smith of Calvary Church in Denison, Texas, gather for prayer as Bobby Welch shares the FAITH outline with Marcella, a Texas Stadium tour guide, on the stadium's 50-yard line. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

In FAITH, the key factor is a church's connection to its Sunday School, Johnston noted.

"Our Sunday Schools represent the largest group of volunteers within any organization," he said, "so getting people in our Sunday Schools to focus on evangelism is to make them mission-focused Christians."

Welch said "LifeWay is kicking it out there," and 5,000 churches have now been trained in FAITH outreach, with participation totaling 120,000 people.

"Right here we're looking at a generation of preachers who are going to make a difference," Welch said.

Jay McCollum, pastor of the First Church, Gallup, N.M., said the program was on the "cutting edge" of Christian ministry and a "must" for innovative churches.

McCollum, originally from Port Arthur, Texas, said the institute was an opportunity

for professional training, encouragement, and strengthening of purpose.

"The camaraderie is wonderful," he said, "but so is the opportunity to learn, grow, retool, pray, and seek God's guidance."

"I see it as a tremendous opportunity for pastors to learn team building," said Mike Butler, pastor of First Church, Inola, Okla., "to come to the realization that we're not competing against each other."

Scott Willingham, senior pastor of Faith Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, said, "FAITH evangelism has transformed us from an inward-looking church to an outward-looking church. It has built teamwork. I've seen wonderful changes as a result of the program."

"It has helped us see and understand how important all the members of the team are," said Ron Bingaman, minister of FAITH at Immanuel Church, Highland, Calif. He said the church, whose pastor

is Rob Zinn, will host a FAITH Institute next January.

Guy Weathers, pastor of Indian Creek Church at Mineral Wells, Texas, said the program has refocused the purpose of the church back on the true focus of the church — "making Great Commission Christians." That focus, he said, entails maximizing the number of people involved in working to reach people for Christ.

"FAITH evangelism has brought a fresh spirit into our church," said Don Gann, pastor of Wynndale Church, Terry (Miss.). "It has really given our church new opportunity to mobilize. In two [16-week] semesters we've had more people make visits than have made visits in years."

"The program teaches people a total approach to ministry, and it helps us do what we ought to be doing," Gann said.

British cloning recommendation 'unconscionable'

WASHINGTON (BP) — A British panel's recommendation in support of human cloning for experimental purposes is an "unconscionable policy," a Southern Baptist bioethicist said.

As expected, a government advisory commission recently released a proposal in favor of ending Britain's ban on human cloning. The report recommended the prohibition be removed to allow the cloning of human embryos for medical research reasons as long as they are destroyed in the first 14 days, according to The Washington Post.

The administration of Prime Minister Tony Blair has endorsed the recommendation and intends to draft legislation to implement it, The Post reported.

A vote in the House of Commons and House of Lords is expected this fall, according to the report. If it passes, Britain apparently will be the first country to permit explicitly the cloning of human embryos, The Post reported.

Ben Mitchell, a biomedical consultant for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called the recommendation reprehensible in two ways.

"First, human beings ought not be cloned, and second, the 14-day rule means that the destruction of the embryos is mandatory," Mitchell said. "That is, every embryo has a government-mandated death sentence. Scientists become executioners."

The Blair administration's position "is built on the faulty assumption that an early embryo is not a human being and that we do not have an obligation to protect him or her," Mitchell said. "In fact, early human embryos should be protected and not destroyed in research. They have at least a right not to be unnecessarily harmed."

Britain is treading on immoral territory and ought to be told as much. The blood of the innocent cries out from the earth. We ought to cry out too."

The Roman Catholic Church and the opposition Conservative Party also spoke against the Aug. 16 recommendation.

The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said in a commentary, according to the Internet news site CNSNews.com, "The sacrificing of human embryos, even at the earliest stages, is an immoral act. It is neither right nor just that the science of healing should be stained with innocent blood."

Liam Fox, a health spokesman for the Conservative Party, called the proposal "morally unacceptable," CNSNews.com reported.

The recommendation was spurred by the hopes of researchers that stem cells extracted from embryos can be used for transplant purposes to provide healing for a variety of ailments, such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, diabetes, spinal cord injuries, strokes, and burns.

Stem cells are primitive cells

from which a wide variety of tissue in the human body develops. The extraction of stem cells results in the killing of the embryo, however.

Pro-life advocates have urged bans on cloning and stem-cell research be maintained while research in the use of stem cells from adults that has shown promise be pursued.

The panel's report did not recommend a change in a law barring the transfer of a cloned embryo to a woman's womb, according to The Post.

After reports surfaced last year of private groups in the United States seeking to clone embryos for research, Mitchell called for Congress to prohibit human cloning in this country.

Federal funds may not be used for human cloning, but Congress has not enacted an overall ban.

Mitchell is associate professor of bioethics and contemporary culture at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill.

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LSO AP XLBO YT YAPF
LEE, BQ LSJ FLS HBEE
NTFP LQYPW FP, EPY ABF
OPSJ ABFXPEQ, LSO YLDP
ZU ABX NWTXX OLBEJ,
LSO QTEETH FP.

EZDP SBSP: YHPSYJ-YAWPP

Clue: X = S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Eight: Eleven.